Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Acts 2:2

Soundings

News and Information from the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 21, Number 1 January 2004

Lutheran Vespers Update

by Margit Peiffle, Communication Specialist

Lutheran Vespers has been on the air in the Puget Sound area since March 1998 on KIRO 710 AM. You, our listeners, have been supportive of this outreach ministry by listening to Walt Wangerin, by writing letters of support and by donating to Lutheran Vespers. Over the years, we have reached many who have needed to hear the gospel's message.

Earlier this year, we had to make a big change. The Northwest Washington Synod was told that Lutheran Vespers could no longer be aired on KIRO. If we wanted to continue to air Lutheran Vespers, we had to move the program to a sister station, KTTH 770 AM. (This decision was made by KIRO's parent company, Entercom.) The Communication Committee conducted research on other possible local radio stations and determined that there were limited options. Based on this information, the Synod Council approved the move to KTTH and, at the same time, to begin to air on a small Mount Vernon station called KAPS 660 AM.

Lutheran Vespers was on the air on KTTH for eight months. During this time, the Synod Communication Committee noticed that

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Synod News and Information

Needed—Names For Synod Council

by Carol Warren, Chair, Nominating Committee

At the 2004 Synod Assembly (May 14-15 at St. Matthew's in Renton) voting members will be electing several Synod Council members to fill four-year terms. Nominations are needed for positions in all categories: clergy, laity, associate in ministry/deaconess/diaconal minister, male, female, persons of color or primary language other than English. We are also seeking nominations from all geographic areas of the synod. (Please see below for open positions and refer to the synod constitution for specific information.) Biographical information will be included in the Synod Assembly business packets if nominations are received by February 20.

Please forward the names of qualified persons whom you identify to the Nominating Committee Chair, Carol Warren, at carolmwarren@comcast.net. The form is also available on the synod website at www.lutheransnw.org, click on 2004 Synod Assembly. Members of the Synod Nominating Committee are available to discuss the positions needing nominations at your church in a temple talk or council meeting. Please contact Carol Warren.

Synod Council—The Synod Council is the board of directors of this synod and serves as the interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. The Synod Council's responsibilities include: to exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod; to recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly; to carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly. The Synod Council generally meets on the third Saturday every other month, beginning in January. Each Council member also serves as liaison with one of the synod committees and with several congregations.

Synod Treasurer—Responsibilities include the management of the monies and accounts of this synod. The Treasurer also serves on the Synod Council, the Executive Committee and the Synod Finance Committee.

2005 Churchwide Assembly—The Synod Assembly will elect nine persons to serve as voting members of the Churchwide Assembly which will be held August 8–14, 2005, in Orlando, Florida. The Bishop is an ex officio voting member of the Churchwide Assembly. The Synod Assembly will elect three clergy persons, three lay male persons, and three lay female persons. At least one of those elected shall be a person of color or whose primary language is other than English.

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18:21-22

A Word From The Bishop,

Rev. Wm Chris Boerger

What is the role of forgiveness in the Christian life? On the surface this seems like a simple question to answer. We begin our worship with the confession and the absolution of sin. We recognize that the church is made up of forgiven sinners. We understand too well Luther's statement that we are at the same time sinners and saints.

Having said that let me quickly add that forgiveness is about our standing within the body of Christ. As a forgiven sinner, I am freed from the curse of death and I am bound to you as a member of Christ's body. I am not given rights and privileges to do anything that I desire in the body. We, Lutheran Christians, also understand that a call to vocation and service in the church comes from God through the community of faith. Being forgiven puts me in that community, but does not grant that I can serve wherever and whenever I please.

Lutheran Pastors are recognized as pastors when they are under call. In the ELCA, the privilege of being on the clergy roster without call has a three year limit. If an extension is not granted after three years, the pastor is no longer on the clergy roster and must apply for reinstatement in order to serve in a congregation again.

Today, this understanding needs to be extended to certain forms of lay ministry as well. Persons who have been resigned or been removed from the roster because of sexual misconduct are not guaranteed the right of reinstatement. This is not about forgiveness; rather it is about understanding the power of trust that has been damaged. We continue to welcome to the Lord's Table persons who are guilty of being sinners. In that welcome we find forgiveness.

People who come to our congregations as registered sex offenders, persons guilty of sexual harassment, etc. should also be invited and welcomed to the supper. However, they should not be put in positions of

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A Word From The Bishop

authority, especially where children or vulnerable individuals are concerned. Our synod's task force on the Prevention of Domestic Violence has put together an excellent video and educational tool. The goal of this tool is that each congregation would develop and implement a policy that speaks to how we are actively working to make our congregations safe places. I encourage the use of this tool. (Available at the Region 1 Resource Center.)

We are not talking about forgiving the sinner. We are talking about how we protect the vulnerable and how we understand ministry and membership. The role of the community in calling forth persons with the gifts of leadership must be made carefully. This is not a volunteer recruitment process; it is a speaking on behalf of God to call forth gifted leaders. Those who have demonstrated an abuse of the gifts of the spirit are to be forgiven. The question of whether they should live out their Christian vocation as leaders is one that rests within the trust of the community. It is not easy, but it is the work that God has entrusted to the church.

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Lutheran Vespers Update

listenership decreased by two thirds: from 39,000 or more on KIRO to less than 13,000 on KTTH.

This decrease of listenership, and a corresponding decrease in giving by congregations and individuals, meant that the Synod Council needed to take action at their November council meeting. Based on a Communication Committee request, the council voted to cancel the KTTH contract.

The last airdate for Lutheran Vespers on KTTH was Sunday, Nov. 30, 2003. Lutheran Vespers will continue to air on KAPS. You can hear Walt Wangerin and Lutheran Vespers on KAPS 660 AM on Sundays at 7 a.m. This station reaches a broadcast area where listeners previously had difficulty receiving Lutheran Vespers.

As cards and letters from listeners have shown, we have touched, and we continue to touch, many lives through Lutheran Vespers. Lutheran Vespers remains an important outreach ministry for our area.

If you would like to help to expand this ministry, please contact Margit Peiffle at mpeiffle@msn.com, telephone 360-403-9870 or fax at 360-435-5955. Or, if you would like to make a gift to keep Lutheran Vespers on the air, please send your donation to: Region 1, Lutheran Vespers Account, 766-B John Street, Seattle, WA 98109.

Synod Council Update

by Sharon Greenwood, Synod Vice President

The November Council meeting was hosted by Faith Lutheran in Seattle. Rev. Nancy Winder led devotions, gave a tour of their new building addition and remodel while telling about the ministry carried out by the congregation.

Treasurer Fritz Baesman reported that October receipts totaled $147,000. Total receipts through October were $1,029,000, which is still $85,000 below the amount required to support the revised operating budget of $1,486,020. Because 45 % of receipts are forwarded to the ELCA churchwide organization, the churchwide share of the shortfall is $38,000, and the synod share is $47,000. The Treasurer determined that the cash balance held in reserve could be reduced. As a result, catch-up payments were made to partnership agencies, and payments are now current with the budgeted level. The Council also:

- Authorized a task force to develop a plan and an implementation strategy for a sustainable mission funding effort, and to bring the plan to the Synod Council and to the 2004 Synod Assembly. The Task Force includes: Richard Bridges (Trinity, Lynnwood), Sharon Greenwood (Queen Anne, Seattle), Wendy Jacobson (Faith, Redmond), Rev. Terry Kyllo (Celebration, Anacortes), Rev. Philip Reitz (Region 1), Rev. Jim Rismiller (Lord of Life, Renton), Rev. Everett Savage (Trinity, Lynnwood) and Bob Wall (Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor).
- Issued a call to Jennifer Vasquez to serve as a diaconal minister at Oak Harbor; appointed Dale Kiesz of St. Luke's, Bellevue to the Finance Committee; and accepted with regret the resignation of Dianne Kutzke (Shepherd of the Hills, Issaquah) from the Synod Council.
- Cancelled the Lutheran Vespers' contract with KTTH 770 AM and to continue to air the program on KAPS 660 AM in Mount Vernon
- Amended the Policy for Calling Pastors to Congregations by deleting the provision requiring an 80% majority vote to call a pastor who has been serving in another position in the same congregation. (Interim Pastors continue to be unavailable for call to the congregation being served.)
- Took the following actions for the 2004 Synod Assembly: set Feb. 20, 2004, as the deadline for submitting resolutions; appointed Rev. Chris Berry of Lutheran Campus Ministry at Western Washington University to serve as parliamentarian; and set fees of $90 for voting members, $55 for retired rostered voting members and observers, and $25 for visitors.

Phone: 206-283-5546
Email:sharon5546@msn.com

Maritime Ministry

The Maritime Ministry has set the date for its 2004 Maritime dinner. It will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2004, at Trinity, 6215 196th SW, Lynnwood. The Lutheran Maritime Ministry of the Northwest Washington Synod is asking for your help in making this dinner a success. Plan to attend to help celebrate this ministry. For more information contact Floyd Squires, Chair, at 206-542-1281.

A Conversation

About The Church, The Gospel And Human Sexuality

A Conversation about the Church, The Gospel, and Human Sexuality is the theme for the eighth annual Winter Theological Symposium to be held in February 2004. Stimulating lectures will be presented at four different sites by **Dr. Fred Gaiser** of Luther Seminary and **Dr. Martha Stortz** of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Our Synod's location for the lectures is from 1 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 8, at Trinity Lutheran College, 4221 228th Ave. SE, Issaquah. The lectures are also being presented in Spokane, Portland and at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) in Tacoma on Monday, Feb. 9.

Dr. Gaiser's lecture is entitled *Male and Female He Created Them, A Biblical Perspective on Homosexuality* and Dr. Stortz's lecture is entitles *An Approach to Human Sexuality: Beginning with Baptism.* The **Rev. Dr. James M. Childs, Jr.**, Dir. for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality, will moderate the event and give a presentation on *How to Have Civil Conversations about Difficult Issues.* This will be a hearing for input to the ELCA task force.

Cost of these events is $25 per person, including a light meal andrefreshments, if registered by January 31. (After Jan. 31 the fee is $30.) A reduced rate of $15 per person for groups of 10 or more from one congregation, if prepaid. The lectures at PLU will also be LUTECAST live over the internet and be available for viewing after the events. For more information contact the PLU Office of Church Relations at 253-535-7423 or email at crel@plu.edu. Sponors include PLU, Lutheran Educational Network and Support (LENS) and Trinity Lutheran College.

Partners For Nurture

The annual *Partners for Nurture* teacher training event will be held on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2004 on the Trinity Lutheran College campus. Registration begins at 8 am. The event includes lunch, snacks and a choice of 40 workshops.Questions? Contact Sue Houglum at houglum@tlc.edu or call 425-961-5532.

Gathering

For Transformational Leaders

The Joy Leadership Conference, *The Ancient Future Church,* will be held February 9 through 12, 2004, at Community Church of Joy in Glendale, AZ.

And, if you don't think you can afford attending, the conference will be **simulcast** at St. Matthew's in Renton.

By attending the simulcast, not only will you have the opportunity to hear the general sessions, worship and featured workshops but on-site breakout workshops will be held. (Please visit www.joylead.org and click on *10 simulcast locations via satellite* for workshops unique to the simulcast at St. Matthew's.)

This gathering connects ELCA leaders who are: passionate about their call, mission led and mission driven and who reach out to seekers. Keynote speaker is Walt Kallestad, senior pastor of Community Church of Joy, who will share the story of Joy and its journey from tradition to mission. Other speakers include Len Sweet, historian and futurist and Tim Wright, strategic thinker.

Cost: $169 if postmarked by Jan 9, 2004; $199 if postmarked after Jan 9, 2004. Cost to attend the simulcast regional event is the same as attending the conference in Glendale. For registration information visit www.joylead.org or telephone 1-877-569-5323.

Learn Key Tax Information

at a Clergy Tax Seminar

The Rev. Bill Geisler is a nationally recognized expert on clergy tax law. His seminars in dioceses throughout the country are wildly popular and informative. A retired Episcopal priest, Geisler is the former treasurer of the Diocese of California and is a CPA who has served as a resource for Church Ministry Resources in the area of clergy taxes.

The Geisler Clergy Tax Seminar will be held 9:30 am to 3 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30, at Emmanuel Church, 4400 86th Ave. SE, Mercer Island. The seminar will focus on tax issues and financial planning for clergy.

Cost is $15 for each participant and includes a box lunch. Registration deadline is Jan. 19, 2004. To register, send check with name(s) of attendees, congregation and preferred lunch (salad, sandwich or vegetarian) and mail to: Diocese of Olympia, Attn. Chris Clark P.O. Box 12126, Seattle, WA 98102-0126. Sponsored by CADO and the Diocesan Treasurer's Office.

Sharing Faith

In a New Century

Seeking to support congregations and inviting people to the faith, the 2003 Churchwide Assembly adopted ***Sharing Faith in a New Century: A Vision for Evangelism in the ELCA.*** The ELCA began to implement this new evangelism strategy this past fall. To learn more visit, www.elca.org/dcm/evangelism.

- *Sharing Faith in a New Century: Inspiration for Witnessing* is a 24-page booklet based on the ELCA evangelism strategy. It includes four Bible studies bulletin inserts and suggestions for celebrating the church seasons of Epiphany and Lent.
- A new video, *Shining Witnesses* accompanies the booklet. It combines visual images and music to "stimulate and inspire reflective conversations" about evangelism.
- *You Shall Be My Witnesses* is a new website maintained by the evangelism team, ELCA Division for Congregational Ministries. The website contains the text of the evangelism strategy, resources, frequently-asked-questions, assessment tools for evangelism and more.

Renewing Worship Days

Since September, the ELCA has been holding workshops for pastors, musicians and others who are interested in renewing the worship life of the ELCA. ***Renewing Worship Days*** will be held in our area on Saturday, Feb. 21, at Phinney Ridge Lutheran, 7500 Greenwood Ave. N, Seattle.

The one-day workshop, which begins and ends with worship, includes three distinctive sessions. *The Promise of Renewing Worship* is the first session, serving to introduce the Renewing Worship process as well as available and upcoming worship resources. The second, *Foundations for Renewal,* explores language, music, preaching and worship space and their implications for the renewal of worship in congregations. *Partners in Conversation,* the third session, offers participants an opportunity to share their hopes, concerns and input on the next generation of worship resources for the ELCA.

Renewing Worship is a five-year/five-phase process established to determine the "next generation" of worship resources for the ELCA. (The end result is to develop a comprehensive set of resources that will succeed the *Lutheran Book of Worship.* This proposal will be presented to the 2005 Churchwide Assembly.) Rev. Susan Briehl of Spokane is one of the members of the Resource Proposal Group. To learn more, visit www.rewnewingworship.org.

Update From The Board Of Pensions

- **Is Your Health At Risk?**–Take the Mayo Clinic health risk assessment on line from Jan. 6 through Feb 25. Answering basic questions about your health habits can help you identify health risks, set goals and develop a personal wellness plan. Pastors, rostered leaders, lay employees, seminarians and their families who take the assessment will receive a free copy of Mayo Clinic's Guide to Self-care book. Watch for more information at www.elcaforwellness.org
- **Social Security Added to Define Compensation Calculator**–Defined compensation is the basis for calculating ELCA benefits. Our Defined compensation calculator now includes a tool to determine Social Security tax allowance. Use this improved calculator today at www.elcabop.org/resources_tools/calculators (select Defined compensation calculator)
- **New Medicare Prescription Drug Legislation**–Plan members may have heard about a new bill Congress recently passed adding a prescription drug benefit option to Medicare. The new bill has no immediate impact on members with ELCA Supplement to Medicare Benefits who already receive prescription drug benefits. To learn more see www.elcabop.org/news_events/news_articles/index.asp (select Medicare legislation and ELCA Supplement to Medicare Benefits)
- **ELCA Health Plan Changes for 2004**–As your advocate we are always looking for ways to improve benefits while controlling costs. More information on plan changes in 2004 (see items below) can be found at www.elcabop.org/news_events/plan_changes
  - ELCA Supplement to Medicare Benefits deductible
  - Coverage continuation for children of sponsored members
  - Changes to prescription drug formulary
  - Dental benefits deductible change
  - New disability claims administrator
  - Pre-existing condition rules for Disability and Survivor plan enrollment
- ***Vision One* Discount**–New *Vision One* membership cards from Aetna have been mailed with your ELCA benefits overview. Current Vision One cards expire Dec. 31. For more information on the Vision One discount program, see www.elcabop.org/benefit_plans/health_benefits/vision_one.asp

Advocacy Ministry

By Rev. Paul B. Benz, Director, Lutheran Public Policy Office

A blessed new year greeting to you filled with God's grace and humor. (How else would we get through another year!)

As the second session of the 57th state legislature begins we will definitely need God's grace and humor! This is the *short session.* This means that the session is only 60 days long compared to the first session of each biennium, which is 105 days and is when the budget is prepared and adopted. My hope and prayer is that you and many others will be a part of exercising your faith and being God's witnesses in the political arena this year. Here are five ways you can do that:

- Join other Lutherans and their friends on Lutheran Advocacy Day at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 5, at Gloria Dei in Olympia (1515 Harrison Ave. NW).
- Use and publicize the 1-800-562-6000 legislative hotline where you can leave a message for the governor and your three state legislators. (To find out the names of your legislators go to www.dfind.leg.wa.gov.)
- Email or write a letter. (See page 11 for addresses.)
- Set a meeting with your legislators when they are in your district; or set up a meeting between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. on Lutheran Advocacy Day.
- Congregations or a cluster of congregations (ELCA/ecumenical or interfaith) can host a candidates forum on Hunger, Housing, & Health Care. I would be willing to help you organize this.

The new 2004 legislative priorities brochure of Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPO) was sent to all of our ELCA congregations. If you missed that mailing or would like additional copies, please let me know. The following are LPPO's 2004:

- Maintain funding for human service programs.
- Reduce Washington State's high rate of hunger (in top five the last eight years).
- Health Care Accessibility & Affordability (11% of our state is without coverage).
- Issues of Economic Justice, including reform of our tax structure.

I want to thank each of you who have contributed financially this past year and I look forward to your continued involvement with LPPO this coming year. One way this is done is through our email alert list. If you know of anyone not on it that would like to be contact me. One of our main goals this year is to find someone willing to donate their time and expertise to help establish an LPPO website.

Phone: 206-694-5772
Email:pbenz@lcsnw.org

Toward the Goal

A resource for Full Inclusion of People who are Differently-abled

A resource for full inclusion of people who are differently-abled has recently been published by the Division for Church and Society, ELCA, . The resource is a video and study guide that can be used for up to eight weeks. With the assistance of these materials, congregations are encouraged to develop disability ministries that emphasize three key areas: the physical accessibility of buildings, outreach to individuals in the community who are differently-able and the inclusion of individuals who are differently-abled in the life and ministries of the congregation. The resource guide is available by contacting the Region I Resource Center at 206-624-0093 or contact David Gross, Chair of the Synod's Inclusion Committee, at 425-334-8391 or email dgross7043@aol.com. Part of our calling as people of God is to include and minister with the beloved children of God who are differently-abled. P*lease plan to use this study guide in your congregation.*

Conflict Resolution

The Northwest and Southwestern Washington Synods, the PLU Office of Church Relations, and Lutheran Educational Network and Support (LENS) are sponsoring two seminars on conflict resolution for Lutheran pastors and congregational leaders on Friday, March 5, and Saturday, March 6 at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma. The March 5 seminar is, "**How to Resolve Conflict with Others – *Getting others to work with you, not against you.***" The March 6 seminar is, "**How to Mediate Conflict – *Helping staff and members do good ministry together.***" For further information contact Tim Wolbrecht at timwolbrecht@mediationworks.com.

Agape

by Rev. Ted Wuerffel, LCMS Campus Pastor at UW

An interactive symposium will be held one day each month (Wednesday, Jan. 22; Monday, Feb. 23; and Monday, March 15) from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at Agape, the Lutheran Campus Chapel, at the University of Washington.. Rev. Michael Nel, Consultation to Clergy, will serve as group facilitator. Pastors will present pastoral case studies (professional, marital counseling etc.) and then the others in the group will respond. The group is limited to ten participants. Registration is $25 and participants will earn .5 CEU credit hours.

Planning the symposium are: Rev. Dr. Robert Schultz (ELCA), Rev. Ron Gocken (LCMS, Dir. of Lutheran Ministry Services NW chaplaincy program) and myself. We are working closely with Rev. Scott Postlewait, ELCA Campus Pastor at the University. For more information, contact me at agape@u.washington.edu or at 206-634-3370.

Agape
Lutheran Campus Chapel
4130 University Way NE
Seattle

JUST 4 YOUTH!

Justabouteverythingpages is on-line again this year! Check it out on the Region 1 youth and family web site at www.elcaregion1.org/youth.html

Focus on Youth & Family Ministry Event

The event will be held February 27-28, 2004, at Trinity Lutheran College, Issaquah. The theme this year is:

Is This Any Way to Live?
Practicing Our Faith, Living Abundantly

This year's focus topic is on introducing faith practices into a congregation's youth ministry. The event is designed as an opportunity for high school youth and adults to experience faith practices, integrating our Christian faith with the activities of our daily life.

Susan Briehl, a speaker, author, and pastor, will be the featured presenter. She works as an associate of the Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith, an initiative funded by the Lilly Foundation. Susan and her daughters, Mary Emily and Magdalena (who will also lead the event), together wrote the chapters on "The Story" and "Food" in *Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens,* which serves as the basis for this year's Focus on Youth & Family Ministry event. Participants will each receive a copy of the book.

We encourage congregations to send a team of 1-3 adults and 1-3 high school youth.

FOYM is designed to assist congregations in developing children, youth, and family ministries and is hosted annually by ELCA Region 1 and the Trinity Lutheran College Children, Youth & Family Center.

The program fee is $40 per person (not including lodging or meals). For more information, contact Linda Zinter, FOYM Registrar, at 424-961-5544 or cyfcenter@tlc.edu.

Office Available

Office space available in Prime Pioneer Square Location at 419 Occidental Ave. S, Suite 201, Seattle; one to three offices for rent with attractive common space for small or large meetings. Partner with active nonprofit organizations advocating for justice and the common good. All focusing on issues related to human services, hunger, environment, living wages, immigration and farmworker rights, tax fairness, among others. Rent one or more offices ranging from $350 - $700 per month, includes access to shared conference room (capacity 35) and library for meetings (capacity 6). Price negotiable for multiple offices. Can arrange for access to a photocopier and DSL connections. Located convenient to four different transit services. Contact Bette Schneider, Washington Association of Churches, 206-625-9790 ext 25, or schneider@thewac.org.

Organist/ Pianist

Organist/pianist position available at Ebenezer, Lake Stevens. Two Sunday services (one traditional; one contemporary). Wednesday night rehearsal with Adult Choir. **Choir Director Position** also available. May apply for one or both positions. Two-manual, 28-rank pipe organ. Kawai Grand Piano. Salary based on experience and education. Organist Range: $8000 - $9500 / year; Choir Director Range for 9 1/2 months: $5700 - $6650. Send resume to: 2111 117th Ave. NE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258 or call Pastor Benson for more details at 425-334-0421.

Organ For Sale

Baldwin Model 520 organ with separate speaker system (Baldwin Model H5 Tone Cabinet, 650 Watts). Excellent organ for small to medium size church. Organ is in very good condition (must see and try). Contact Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 615 Highland Drive, Arlington; telephone 360-435-8921 or email carl.gabrielson@ecunet.org.

Telephone Available

Bethlehem in Marysville has a Panasonic Digital Business Telephone System that they would like to sell. This system is capable of handling six incoming lines and serves up to sixteen extensions (included). The system is available to any congregation or agency . Please contact Bethlehem at 360-659-2022 or email at pastorjack@bethlehemlutheran.com.

News and Notes

- The Hallmark Channel will rebroadcast *This Holy Night*, the ELCA's 2002 Christmas Eve television special, on Christmas Day 2003. They plan to show it at 12:30 a.m. (Eastern and pacific times) on Christmas Day, December 25. You can find more information on "This Holy Night" online at www.elca.org/co/holynight.html. That site includes a flyer and bulletin insert.
- The new study guide for **Journey Together Faithfully, Part Two: The Church and Homosexuality** was mailed to all congregations in early September. You can also review and/or download the document at www.elca.org/faithfuljourney/ or you can order copies from Augsburg Press at 1-800-328-4648. Cost $1.50 each. A response form is located at the back of the study booklet. Participating in this study and sending in the response form is the best way to have your voice heard. Responses need to be received by the ELCA on or before November 1, 2004.
- Thrivent's film *Luther* will be available on video/DVD mid to late 2004.
- **Lutheran Community Services Northwest** (LCSNW) has received a $350,000 grant from The Paul G. Allen Charitable Foundation for the *Called To Community–Called To Care Capital Campaign*, a campaign to construct a 32,000 square foot Community Services Building in SeaTac. Partnering with LCSNW is Lutheran Alliance To Create Housing (LATCH). For more information, please visit www.calledtocare.org.
- **Rev. Susan Kirlin-Hackett** was installed at Holy Cross in Everett on Sunday, Dec. 7, by Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop.
- **Bernhard Kreft** is the new intern at Trinity in Lynnwood. Bernhard is Trinity's second intern from the Hermannsburg Seminary in Germany. His studies have already taken him to South Africa as an intern and he will return there following the completion of his seminary work.
- The South Everett Neighborhood Center and Familias (Unidas) Latino Resource Center nominated **Faith Lutheran in Everett** for the Collaboration Award. This award is given by the Everett Human Services Council.
- Three members of **Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor,** held a Russian lunch for the congregation. This was done to continue to inform the congregation of their partnership with the Evangelical-Lutheran St. Katharina's Church in Kazan, Russia.

Within Our Family

To Keep in Our Prayers...

† **For Jannie Adams, Associate in Ministry (ret.),** whose health is declining.

† For those affected by the huge fire in the dormitory of the Lumumba University, Russia. Almost 40 died and about 170 severely injured. Residents are mostly people who have not yet become acclimated, primarily Africans, but also students from Asia and Europe. This university is within our **companion synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church of European Russia.**

† For **Robert Omland, father of Bishop Rich Omland,** who had emergency heart surgery in October. He continues to recover. Bishop Omland is bishop of the Montana Synod.

† **Rev. Tim Weber, St. Andrew's in Bellevue,** as he recovers at home after a brief hospital stay with an aortal aneurysm. You can send email messages to him at timwebertt@aol.com.

† For **Rev. Wally Johnson (ret.)** who continues to heal from surgery.

† **John Corkran,** Synod Council member, as he waits for the infection to heal and for his second hip surgery.

† **Arne Pietz, son of Rev. Lothar Pietz** (on our synod roster, currently serving an interim at Immanuel, Boise). Arne is experiencing life-threatening complications following surgery.

† **Rev. James Ericksen (ret.)** who has been ill.

† **Rev. Paul Wuest** who has had a recurrence of cancer and is undergoing treatment at this time. Cards may be sent to: 12718 SE 254th Ct.; Kent, WA 98031; prwuest@comcast.net.

† **Phil Young, husband of Linda Albert Young.** He underwent a bone marrow transplant in early September and is now home recuperating.

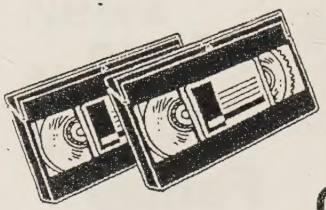
† **Rev. Eric Ranum** as he heals from radiation treatments for his brain tumor. Updates are posted at www.Trinitylutheran-cda.org.

† **Rev. Robert Moylan (ret.)** as he deals with progressive muscular dystrophy.

† **Rev. Jim Schoeld (ret.)** as he learns to do new things.

† At the regular **Tuesday worship and synod staff meeting,** we pray for our pastors, churches and members. We pray for our missionaries who are serving both near and far away. We pray for those serving our country in military service. We pray for the health and healing of those we mention in our hearts. We pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in our companion synods in Ethiopia and Russia. We pray for the pastors, churches and members of the Southwestern Texas Synod, as we are partnered with them by Churchwide. We pray for peace.

Within Our Family depends upon you-not only for prayers, but also your prayer requests. Please contact the Synod office with any additions to this column.



New In The Resource Center

Bullying and Stop Bullying

Bullying is pervasive in our schools. Over 150,000 students stay home from school each day to avoid harassment from their peers. An estimated 1.6 million young people in grades six through ten are bullied at least once a week. Many young people feel helpless in these situations. They need to know what to do if they are bullied or if they are a witness to bullying. ***Stop Bullying!*** (V-1342, 20 minutes) gives students concrete steps they can take to respond to bullying.

Stop Bullying! features nationally acclaimed and Emmy-nominated youth speaker, Mark Brown, who has dedicated his career to helping young people. Jamaican-born Brown uses his own personal experience with having been bullied as he speaks to thousands of kids each year about the importance of tolerance and respect.

We know today that bullying has serious consequences for both the victims and the bullies, ranging from low self-esteem to suicide. Young people need guidance from the adults. ***Bullying: What Every Adult Needs to Know*** *(V-1341, 30 minutes)* gives adults the tools they need to prevent and stop bullying.

Both videos come with a Discussion Guide. Call the Resource Center to reserve at *206-624-0093, Ext. 100.*, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Soundings

News and information for pastors, associates in ministry, lay leaders and ecumenical friends of

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